

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9-14 and 17 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-20 are presented for reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Murphy et al. in view of Maruyama et al. Claim 1 is amended to recite features neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely:

... **a data storage format of the parameter information file** is such that all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with one type of data is stored sequential to all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with another type of data by using a classification according to a type of data. (Emphasis added).

Basis for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 13, lines 15-18 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action readily admits that Murphy does not disclose "all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with one type of data is stored sequential to all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with another type of data ..." (Office Action, page 3, lines 14-16). However, the Office Action concludes that Maruyama discloses these features. (Office Action, page 3, lines 17-18). In particular, the Office Action refers to col. 10, line 50 to col. 11, line 59 and Fig. 10 of Maruyama in support of this conclusion.

Fig. 10 of Maruyama discloses a subdirectory of video files stored sequential to a subdirectory of audio files. Applicants assume that the Office Action is interpreting the subdirectory of video files illustrated in Fig. 10 of Maruyama as being the same as Applicants' claimed "parameter information." However, the cited portions and Fig. 10 of Maruyama do not disclose or suggest "... **a data storage format of the parameter information file**, as recited in claim 1. By contrast, Maruyama recites:

... **FIG. 10 exemplifies the directory structure of information (data files) recorded on optical disc 10.** As in the hierarchical file structure used by a versatile operation system of a computer, the subdirectory of video title set VTS and that of audio title set ATS are made under the root directory. Various video files (files VMGI, VMGM, VTSI, VTSM, VTS, and

the like) are allocated in the subdirectory of video title set VTS to manage the individual files systematically. A specific file (e.g., specific VTS) can be accessed by designating the path from the root directory to that file.

Maruyama, col. 10, lines 50-59 (emphasis added).

Maruyama only discloses a directory structure of data files, such as the hierarchical file structure used by a versatile operation system of a computer. That is, the hierarchical structure in Fig. 10 illustrates a pointer system. The hierarchical structure in Fig. 10 does not indicate positions where the files are stored on the recording medium with respect to each other.

By contrast, the data storage format in Applicants' exemplary embodiment indicates stored positions of the files. That is, "... a **data storage format of the parameter information file** is such that all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with one type of data is stored **sequential to** all parameter information in the parameter information file associated with another type of data ...". Maruyama does not disclose or suggest these features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 3 and 5-6 ultimately depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3 and 5-6 are likewise allowable over the art of record.

Claims 9-14, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 9-14 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons at least similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claims 15 and 18 depend from claim 12, claims 16 and 19 depend from claim 13 and claims 17 and 20 depend from claim 14. Accordingly, claims 15-20 are likewise allowable over the art of record.

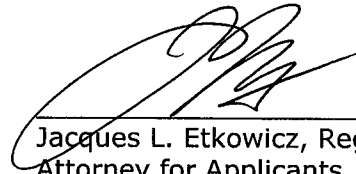
Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Murphy in view of Maruyama and Ohnuma. Ohnuma is relied upon as disclosing meta-data information. Ohnuma, however, does not make up for the deficiencies of Murphy and Maruyama as described above with respect to claim 1. Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 8 is likewise allowable over the art of record.

Application No.: 10/725,929
Amendment Dated March 11, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 12, 2008

MTS-3580US

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Etkowicz', is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: March 11, 2009

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NM383798